

**Common Council Minutes
Monday February 16, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Smith called the regular meeting of the City of Watertown Common Council to order at 7:04 p.m. on Monday February 16, 2026. This meeting was open for attendance in the council chambers as well as virtually.

ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated the following Alderpersons present: Ald. Davis, Lampe, Bartz, Blanke, Smith, Arnett, Wetzel and Moldenhauer. Absent was Mayor Stocks and Ald. Berg. City staff present were Police Chief David Brower, City Attorney Ali Panagopoulos, Finance Director Mark Stevens, Streets Superintendent Stacy Winkelman, Public Works Director Andrew Beyer (virtual), and City Clerk Megan Dunneisen.

Ald. Wetzel made a motion to move the closed session items listed under New Business to occur after the resolutions section of the agenda, seconded by Ald. Arnett and carried by unanimous voice vote. *The closed session items were taken up following the resolutions and were recorded in the minutes in the order in which they appeared on the posted agenda.*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

Council President Smith inquired if there were additions or corrections to minutes of the Common Council meeting held Tuesday, February 3, 2026. There being none, Ald. Arnett moved to approve, seconded by Ald. Davis and carried by unanimous voice vote.

COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT

No comments were received.

PUBLIC HEARING

Council President Smith opened the public hearing for the Rezone 510 S. Second Street from Multi-Family Residential (MR-8) Zoning District to Central Business (CB) Zoning District at 7:08 pm. There being no comments Council President Smith closed the public hearing at 7:08 pm.

Council President Smith opened the public hearing for the Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan changing the future land use category shown for 510 S. Second Street (Parcel PIN: 291-0815-0424-040) from Two-Family Residential to Institutional and changing the future land use category shown for 410R, 507, 514, and 515 S First Street (Parcel PIN(s): 291-0815-0424-009, 291-0815-0424-043, 291-0815-0424-011, & 291-0815-0424-042) from Central Mixed Use to Institutional at 7:10 pm. There being no comments Council President Smith closed the public hearing at 7:10 pm.

REPORTS

(Complete minutes are open for public inspection in the Finance/Clerk Department.)

The following reports were received and filed: Police and Fire Commission minutes from January 12, 2026, Licensing Board minutes from January 14, 2026, Plan Commission minutes from January 26, 2026, Finance Committee minutes from January 26, 2026, Finance Committee minutes from February 3, 2026, Public Works minutes from February 10, 2026, Tourism minutes from February 12, 2026.

COMMUNICATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Stacy Winkleman, Streets Superintendent, gave Employee Recognition to Tom Nickels with the DPW-Street Division for thirty years.

Council President Smith gave recognition to Laura Bohlman with the Police Department for thirty years.

NEW BUSINESS

Ald. Wetzel made a motion to approve the appointment of Chris Koppes – serving his first partial term expiring July 1, 2026, replacing Kerry Kneser to the Library Board, seconded by Ald. Lampe and carried by roll call vote: Yes-7; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ald. Moldenhauer made a motion to convene into closed session per §19.85(1)(g) to confer with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved (Walgreens v. City of Watertown (excessive tax claim)), seconded by Ald. Arnett and carried by roll call vote: Yes-7; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ald. Arnett made a motion to reconvene into open session, seconded by Ald. Bartz and carried by roll call vote: Yes-7; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ald. Lampe made a motion to approve the settlement by outside council for the Walgreens tax dispute, seconded by Ald. Davis and carried by roll call vote: Yes-7; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ald. Arnett made a motion to convene into closed session per §19.85(1)(g) to confer with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved (Dodge County Comprehensive Plan/Town of Emmet Boundary Agreement), seconded by Ald. Wetzel and carried by roll call vote: Yes-7; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ald. Arnett made a motion to reconvene into open session, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer and carried by roll call vote: Yes-7; No-0; Abstain-0

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Payroll Summary - January 21 through February 3, 2026, Paid Invoices Report - January 2026, and Cash and Investments - January 31, 2026 were presented.

LICENSES:

Ald. Moldenhauer made a motion to approve the application for a change of agent from Moravian Homes LLC dba The Marquardt, 1045 Hill Street, from Jennifer Johnson to Carol Jessica Doyle for the licensing year expiring June 30, 2026, seconded by Ald. Blanke and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Ald. Lampe made a motion to approve the application for a "Class B" Malt and Liquor transfer (place to place) request from Cresenciana Sanchez, Agent, for Fiesta Las Margarita located at 1512 S. Church Street to new location 115 S. Second Street starting March 10, 2026 for licensing year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 conditioned on passed city inspections and surrender of the current license, seconded by Ald. Bartz and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Ald. Bartz made a motion to approve the application for a "Class A" Premises Amendment for A-One Oil LLC by Rajwinder Singh, Agent, located at 821 N. Church Street, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer and carried by unanimous voice vote.

ORDINANCES

Ord. 26-01 - Amend Chapter 550: Zoning Code, through the amendments of language to Sections §550-32C(1), §550-33C(1), §550-36C(1), & §550-37C(1), & §550-56 (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Plan Commission, Second Reading). Ald. Blanke moved for adoption of ordinance 26-01 on its second reading, seconded by Ald. Lampe and carried by roll call vote: Yes-7; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ord. 26-02 - Amend the Adopted Planned Development (PD) Overlay District - General Development Plan (GDP) for The Oxbow at 100 E. Division Street (PIN: 291-0815-0412-029) and 104 E. Division Street (PIN: 291-0915-3343-053) (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Plan Commission, First Reading). Ald. Lampe moved for adoption of ordinance 26-02 on its first reading, seconded by Ald. Blanke and carried by roll call vote: Yes-7; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ord. 26-03 - Adopt the Planned Development (PD) Overlay District - Precise Implementation Plan (PIP) for The Oxbow at 100 E. Division Street (PIN: 291-0815-0412-029) and 104 E. Division Street (PIN: 291-0915-3343-053) (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Plan Commission, First Reading). Ald. Lampe moved for adoption of ordinance 26-03 on its first reading, seconded by Ald. Blanke and carried by roll call vote: Yes-7; No-0; Abstain-0.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions below are listed in order of the agenda but may not be the order by which they were taken up at the Council meeting.

Exh. 9825 - Resolution to Approve Development Agreement between City of Watertown, Wisconsin and Habitat for Humanity of Waukesha County, Inc. (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Finance Committee). Ald. Davis moved to adopt resolution 9825, seconded by Ald. Bartz and carried by roll call vote: Yes-7; No-0; Abstain-0.

Exh. 9826 - Resolution to establish world migratory bird day (Sponsor: Ald. Lampe From: Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Commission). Ald. Lampe moved to adopt resolution 9826, seconded by Ald. Blanke and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Exh. 9827 - Resolution to update license fee schedule Watertown Department of Public Health (Sponsor: Ald. Davis and Ald. Smith From: Watertown Board of Health). Ald. Davis moved to adopt resolution 9827, seconded by Ald. Lampe and carried by roll call vote: Yes-7; No-0; Abstain-0.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT

No comments were received.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Ald. Bartz moved to adjourn, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer, and carried by unanimous voice vote at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Dunneisen, City Clerk

DISCLAIMER: These minutes are uncorrected; any corrections will be noted in the proceedings at which these minutes are approved. Complete minutes are open for public inspection in the Clerk's Office. Video recording available at Watertown TV's YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/c/WatertownTV>